

REMARKS:

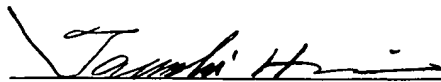
Applicants filed an amendment on October 30, 2006 to respond to the Office Action mailed July 28, 2006, which cited references to reject all of original claims 1-16. In the amendment, Applicants submitted a substitute specification. In the amendment, Applicants also cancelled original claims 1-16 and added new claims 17-28. Applicants also provided remarks as to how new claims 17-28 are distinguishable from the cited references.

Applicants received a notice of non-responsive amendment mailed January 18, 2007. The Examiner indicates in the notice that the inventions recited in new claims 17-28 are patentably distinct from those recited in original claims 1-16. The Examiner further indicates that since Applicants have prosecuted claims 1-16, the inventions recited in claims 1-16 have been constructively elected, and new claims 17-28 are thus considered withdrawn from prosecution on the merits. The Examiner then requests Applicants to submit a correction to the October 30, 2006 amendment.

In the above amendment, new claims 17-28 have been withdrawn from consideration. New claims 29-39 have been added, which are original claims 1-11. Since new claims 29-39 are in fact ordinal claims 1-11, claims 29-39 should have the same flaws as indicated by the Examiner in the July 28, 2006 Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a final Office Action to claims 29-39. Applicants will file a RCE to prosecute pending claims 17-28.

Respectfully submitted,

February 20, 2007
Date


Tadashi Horie (Reg. No. 40,437)

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 321-4200